




LINCOLN-LANCASTER COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Guidance for Preventing COVID-19 in Childcare Facilities

February 19, 2022

- A. **Vaccination:** Every childcare provider who is eligible should be fully vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 and Influenza.
- B. **Face Coverings:** The use of masks will be at the discretion of the childcare facility based on the risk of spread in the community, vaccination status of providers and illness history at the childcare facility. LLCHD may require face coverings in outbreak situations. Children under age two should not wear face coverings. Face coverings shall not be worn at naptime. More information on face coverings can be found here: [Healthy Children](#)
- C. **Screening and Exclusion:** Upon entry screen all children and staff for symptoms of illness and excluded as per facility policy. We would encourage you to add new onset of loss of taste or smell to your exclusion policy. Monitor children and staff for symptoms throughout the day and exclude accordingly.
- D. Lincoln Municipal Code 8.14.100 Communicable Diseases Reporting and Illness Exclusion states: The operator shall report within 24 hours to the Health Director when three (3) or more children and/or staff in a classroom or group are ill with a reportable communicable disease, diarrhea, or vomiting; or one (1) child or staff has bloody diarrhea. Please report as per 8.14.100 to the [Child Care Illness Symptom Report System Link](#) or via this QR Code.
- E. **Group Sizes and Separation:** If more than one (1) group of children is cared for at one (1) facility, to the extent possible, keep each group in a separate room which is separated by either physical walls or sufficient airspace. To the extent possible, do not move children between groups and maintain the same teachers with the same groups of children every day, and do not allow staff or children to relocate or work between different centers. Increase spacing as much as possible between mats/cots at naptime. Consider alternating head/feet direction to limit face-to-face contact when possible.
- F. **Field Trips:** When taking field trips, carefully consider how to incorporate physical distancing, hand hygiene/sanitizer, and other illness control measures and requirements in route to and at the destination. Communicate with site to ensure safety for everyone.
- G. **Local Guidance on COVID-19:** Keep current on local guidance and community spread at <https://lincoln.ne.gov/city/covid19/>

Other Resources: The American Academy of Pediatrics has helpful resources at [AAP Review CDC Guidance for Operating Child Care Programs during COVID-19 \(cdc.gov\)](#)

Assistance contact: Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department Child Care Health 402-441-6280
healthychildcare@lincoln.ne.gov